This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method of offering preferred transport in a network, the method comprising:

receiving a first part of a content transmission from a content provider in the network at a transmission device that transmits the content between the content provider and a destination of the content;

receiving an indication of predetermined transport parameters in the network at the transmission device, the indication being contained in the received first part of the content transmission and the indication specifying an increased transmission speed for at least a duration of the content transmission;

setting up and storing entries in a switching table identifying the content transmission based on the content provider and the destination, the entries in the switching table storing the predetermined transport parameters specified by the indication;

receiving a second part of the content transmission in the network from the content provider;

accessing the switching table to determine the predetermined transport parameters for the content transmission; and

the transmission device transmitting the second part of the content transmission in the network in accordance with the predetermined transport parameters, accessed from the switching table, to the destination.

2. (Currently Amended) A <u>data</u> transmission device comprising:

a data ~~receiver~~ <u>receiving device</u> configured to receive a first part of a content transmission and an indication of predetermined transport parameters contained in the received first part of the content transmission in a network from a content provider, a service logic <u>device</u> for grouping the

first part of the content transmission and subsequent parts of the content transmission as a communications flow, the indication specifying an increased transmission speed for at least a duration of the content transmission;

a transmission logic device for determining ~~the~~ transmission parameters of the content transmission according to the indication of the predetermined transport parameters;

~~a transport creation block~~ a storage device for creating and storing entries in a switching table identifying the content transmission based on the content provider and a destination, the entries in the switching table storing the predetermined transport parameters;

a maintenance component device for managing and deleting entries in the switching table that are no longer needed;

a switching apparatus for transporting the first part and subsequent parts of the content transmission in the network to a communications port of the destination of the content transmission according to the communications flow determined by the service logic device by reference to the entries in the switching table; and

a data ~~transmitter~~ transmitting device configured to transmit the subsequent parts of the content transmission in the network to the destination in conjunction with the communications port in accordance with the predetermined transport parameters specified by the switching table.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first part of the content transmission is a command for a particular content transmission.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the command is a request command for a particular content transmission.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the command is an HTTP GET request command.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the command includes the indication of said predetermined transport parameters, and wherein the indication of said predetermined transport parameters includes a content tag.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the command includes information that is utilized in a return path for the content transmission.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising: receiving a response to the command, wherein the response includes a content tag.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
authenticating a distribution allowed for the content transmission, and
the ~~transmission~~ data transmitting device authorizing only the allowed distribution of the content transmission.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined ~~transportation~~ transport parameters include a preferred level of transport.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined transport parameters ~~include at least one selected from a group consisting of a predetermined amount of bandwidth,~~ include a predetermined quality of service~~, a predetermined transmission attribute, a predetermined amount of packet loss, and a predetermined amount of jitter~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: decrypting the indication of the predetermined transport parameters.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving a first part of the content transmission in the network includes receiving the first

part of the content transmission in a node of the network along a transmission path of the content transmission.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the content transmission includes application data.

15. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 2, wherein the first part of the content transmission is a command for a particular content transmission.

16. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 15, wherein the command is a request command for a particular content transmission.

17. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 16, wherein the command is an HTTP GET request command.

18. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 17, wherein the command includes the indication of predetermined transport parameters, and wherein the indication of predetermined transport parameters includes a content tag.

19. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 17, wherein the command identifies a return path for the content transmission.

20. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 17, wherein the data ~~receiver~~ receiving device is further configured to receive a response to the command, wherein the response includes a content tag.

21. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined transport parameters include a preferred level of transport.

22. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 21, wherein the predetermined transport parameters ~~include at least one selected from~~

~~a group consisting of a predetermined amount of bandwidth,~~ includes a predetermined quality of service~~, a predetermined transmission attribute, a predetermined amount of packet loss, and a predetermined amount of jitter~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a decryption element configured to decrypt the indication of the predetermined transport parameters.

24. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 2, further comprising:

an authentication element configured to authenticate a distribution allowed for the content transmission; and

an authorization element configured to authorize only allowed distribution of the content transmission.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the indication of predetermined transport parameters is contained in a content payload header of the content transmission.

27. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 2, wherein the indication of predetermined transport parameters is contained in a content payload header of the content transmission.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an authentication element receiving a request for authentication of the content transmission through a communications port from the transmission device.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the authentication element and the content provider both store a shared authentication key that is used to validate the request by the authentication element.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the authentication element determining if the communications port is registered.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, further comprising the authentication element determining if a signature, which is associated with the content transmission by the content provider, is encrypted, and wherein the authentication element decrypts the signature with the shared authentication key if the signature is encrypted.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, further comprising the authentication element determining if the signature is valid and retrieving a transport profile from a database if the signature is valid.

33. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim 2, further comprising an authentication element that receives a request for authentication of the content transmission through a communications port, wherein the authentication element and the content provider both store a shared authentication key and the authentication element determines if a signature, which is associated with the content transmission, is encrypted, and wherein the authentication element decrypts the signature with the shared authentication key if the signature is encrypted.

34. (Currently Amended) The data transmission device according to claim [[32]] 33, wherein the authentication element determines if the signature is valid and retrieves a transport profile from a database if the signature is valid.

35. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined transport parameters includes a predetermined transmission attribute.

36. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined transport parameters includes a predetermined amount of packet loss.

37. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined transport parameters includes a predetermined amount of jitter.

38. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined transport parameters includes a predetermined transmission attribute.

39. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined transport parameters includes a predetermined amount of packet loss.

40. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined transport parameters includes a predetermined amount of jitter.

41. (New) A method of offering preferred transport in a network including an Internet, the method comprising:

in a preferred transporter device linked between a content originator located on the Internet for providing a content transmission, and a destination defined as a client computer for receiving the content transmission, wherein said preferred transporter device is linked to both the client computer and a router further connected to the Internet,

receiving a first part of the content transmission from the content originator;

receiving an indication of predetermined transport parameters, the indication being contained in the received first part of the content transmission and the indication specifying an increased transmission speed for at least a duration of the content transmission;

setting up and storing entries in a switching table identifying the content transmission based on the content originator and the destination, the entries in the switching table storing the predetermined transport parameters specified by the indication;

receiving a second part of the content transmission from the content originator;

accessing the switching table to determine the predetermined transport parameters for the content transmission; and

transmitting the second part of the content transmission in accordance with the predetermined transport parameters, accessed from the switching table, to the destination,

wherein operation of said preferred transporter device allows the content originator to maintain control over the first and second parts of the content transmission throughout the network.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein said content originator is located on a peer-to-peer content distribution network available on the Internet.